

TITLE: **APPARATUS FOR CONTAMINANT REMOVAL USING
NATURAL CONVECTION FLOW AND CHANGES IN
SOLUBILITY CONCENTRATIONS BY
TEMPERATURE**

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Department of the Air Force.

Priority Information

15 The present application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending ~~divisional~~
application Serial No. 08/674,702, filed July 8, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,165,282,
which was a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/348,035, filed
December 1, 1994, abandoned, which was a divisional of application Serial No.
07/906,557 filed June 30, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,401,322.

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BACKGROUND

Field of the Invention

25 The invention relates to methods and apparatus for cleaning articles using
supercritical and/or near-supercritical fluids. In particular, the present invention
relates to using differences in contaminant solubility and solvent density at various
temperatures and/or pressures to effect cleaning action, to influence solvent and/or
contaminant movement in the cleaning apparatus, and to facilitate the concentration of
contaminants within the cleaning apparatus and their subsequent removal. Even more